

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## GYPSUM IN MARCH 2006

Producers mined 1.64 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum in March 2006 (table 1). Output was 10% more than that of February 2006 and 12% more than that of March 2005. Synthetic gypsum production was 887,000 metric tons (t) in March 2006 (table 1), which was 14% more than that of February 2006, and 18% more than that of March 2005. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the largest domestic consumer of gypsum. During January through February 2006 synthetic gypsum accounted for 1.54 Mt, or about 24%, of the 6.52-Mt supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 468,000 t (table 2), slightly less than that of February 2006 and 2% more than that of March 2005.

Output of calcined gypsum for March 2006 (table 1) was 2.23 Mt, 14% more than that of February 2006 and 9% more than that of March 2005. Sales of board products were about 3.5

billion square feet (322 million square meters), 19% more than that of February 2006 and 8% more than that of March 2005.

U.S. Government import and export data for March 2006 were not available at the time of publication. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in February 2006 were 928,000 t (table 3), 7% less than that of January 2006 and 23% less than that of February 2005. Gypsum wallboard imports, principally from Canada, for February 2006 were 79,000 t, equivalent to 95 million square feet (8.8 million square meters). These imports were 8% less than that of January 2006 and 72% more than that of February 2005. Wallboard exports to 29 countries and territories in February 2006 were 7,800 t, equivalent to 9.4 million square feet (868,000 square meters). These exports were 7% less than that of January 2006 and 13% more than that of February 2005.

All percentages in this report were computed based on unrounded data.

TABLE 1  
GYPSUM SUPPLY<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	2006			2005
	March	February	January-March	January-March
Crude:				
Mined <sup>3</sup>	1,640,000	1,490,000	4,720,000	3,930,000
Imported <sup>4</sup>	NA	928,000	NA	2,490,000
Synthetic gypsum <sup>5</sup>	887,000	778,000	2,430,000	2,180,000
Total supply	NA	3,200,000	NA	4,240,000
Crude, exported <sup>4</sup>	NA	12,000	NA	56,800
Consumption	NA	3,190,000	NA	4,180,000
Calcined:				
Produced	2,230,000	1,960,000	6,390,000	5,680,000
Imported <sup>6</sup>	NA	494	NA	1,120
Total supply	NA	1,960,000	NA	5,680,000
Exported <sup>6</sup>	NA	15,300	NA	37,200
Consumption	NA	1,950,000	NA	5,640,000

NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>3</sup>Some data were estimated from semiannual reports.

<sup>4</sup>Import and export data are for "Gypsum; anhydrite," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.10.0000.

<sup>5</sup>Reported production only.

<sup>6</sup>Import and export data are for "Plaster," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.20.0000.

TABLE 2  
GYPSUM SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS, BY USE<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2006			2005
	March	February	January-March	January-March
Uncalcined: <sup>3</sup>				
Portland cement	269,000	281,000	791,000	705,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	199,000	194,000	585,000	599,000
Total	468,000	475,000	1,370,000	1,300,000
Calcined:				
Board products <sup>4</sup>	2,890,000	2,430,000	7,920,000	7,140,000
Plaster	15,800	11,300	399,000	40,400
Total	2,880,000	2,450,000	7,950,000	7,180,000
Board products: (Thousand square feet) <sup>5</sup>				
Regular board	2,140,000	1,810,000	5,850,000	5,310,000
Type X board	1,020,000	851,000	2,790,000	2,480,000
Other	314,000	264,000	857,000	778,000
Total supply	3,470,000	2,920,000	9,500,000	8,570,000

<sup>1</sup>Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>3</sup>Does not include synthetic gypsum from electric power plants.

<sup>4</sup>Includes weight of paper and other materials.

<sup>5</sup>One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

TABLE 3  
CRUDE GYPSUM IMPORTED FOR CONSUMPTION<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country of origin	2006			2005
	February	January	January-February	January-February
Austria	9	--	9	--
Brazil	--	1	1	--
Canada	539,000	686,000	1,230,000	1,070,000
China	195	--	195	--
Dominica	--	--	--	2
Dominican Republic	--	9,300	9,300	18,000
France	--	954	954	--
Germany	--	--	--	40
Mexico	271,000	257,000	528,000	300,000
Peru	--	--	--	79
Spain	117,000	43,600	161,000	133,000
United Kingdom	19	--	19	--
Total	928,000	997,000	1,920,000	1,520,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
CRUDE GYPSUM IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Consumption <sup>3</sup>	Production <sup>4</sup>	Imports <sup>5</sup>	Exports <sup>5</sup>
2005:				
January	2,220	1,460	770	14
February	2,190	1,460	755	17
March	2,400	1,470	964	27
April	2,320	1,420	909	12
May	2,800	1,820	994	11
June	2,580	1,620	972	10
July	2,500	1,590	923	9
August	2,550	1,630	926	12
September	2,890	1,680	1,230	18
October	2,550	1,720	848	14
November	2,400	1,550	863	17
December	2,840	1,820	1,040	14
January-December	30,200	19,200	11,200	189
2006:				
January	2,580	1,590	997	14
February	2,410	1,490	928	12
March	NA	1,640	NA	NA

NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes synthetic gypsum.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>3</sup>Consumption calculated by adding the production and imports shown in this table and subtracting the exports shown in this table. Monthly inventory changes are not included.

<sup>4</sup>Production data are from the semiannual gypsum canvasses of the non-wallboard producers, annual canvass of all producers, and from monthly data furnished by the Gypsum Association from the wallboard producers.

<sup>5</sup>Data from U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
SALES OF GYPSUM BOARD PRODUCTS, BY SALES REGIONS<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand square feet)<sup>3</sup>

	New England	Middle Atlantic	E. North Central	W. North Central	South Atlantic	E. South Central	W. South Central	Mountain	Pacific	Exports	Total
2006:											
March											
Veneer base	26,500	2,820	7,780	597	9,320	33	3	410	1,840	67	49,400
Sheathing	1,640	4,580	5,820	5,450	23,800	3,470	12,300	7,950	9,840	1,840	75,900
Regular gypsum board	48,800	166,000	247,000	126,000	634,000	152,000	282,000	220,000	221,000	39,300	2,140,000
Type X gypsum board	31,000	99,300	134,000	74,800	173,000	41,100	112,000	136,000	208,000	10,200	1,020,000
Predecorated board	444	783	1,160	646	1,540	578	1,270	629	965	76	8,080
5/16 Mobile home board	--	707	2,760	--	10,500	13,900	6,440	119	580	--	34,900
Water/moisture resistant board	6,270	24,400	17,300	7,460	34,300	5,890	14,700	12,300	18,600	4,430	146,000
Total	115,000	298,000	416,000	215,000	885,000	217,000	429,000	377,000	461,000	55,900	3,470,000
January- March:											
Veneer base	71,900	7,880	22,400	2,120	25,700	63	60	1,030	4,660	208	136,000
Sheathing	4,200	12,100	15,700	17,000	53,900	9,550	33,600	22,200	28,700	5,750	203,000
Regular gypsum board	129,000	448,000	663,000	349,000	1,730,000	438,000	778,000	603,000	611,000	107,000	5,850,000
Type X gypsum board	85,600	273,000	365,000	206,000	469,000	113,000	311,000	372,000	569,000	23,900	2,790,000
Predecorated board	839	2,180	2,850	1,620	3,980	1,320	3,080	1,440	2,220	142	19,700
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,560	7,760	--	32,200	42,100	17,400	376	1,380	--	103,000
Water/moisture resistant board	16,300	66,400	46,000	20,700	91,400	18,900	39,700	33,900	49,800	13,100	396,000
Total	308,000	811,000	1,120,000	597,000	2,400,000	623,000	1,180,000	1,030,000	1,270,000	150,000	9,500,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Sales region equivalent to U.S. Census Bureau Geographic Division as follows: New England (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT); Middle Atlantic (NJ, NY, PA); East North Central (IL, IN, MI, OH, WI); West North Central (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD); South Atlantic (DC, DE, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV); East South Central (AL, KY, MS, TN); West South Central (AR, LA, OK, TX); Mountain (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY); Pacific (AK, CA, HI, OR, WA).

<sup>3</sup>One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

Source: Gypsum Association.